

from the pool via at least one of said selected gaming devices upon the occurrence of a [predetermined] predefined event;

storing the data in a memory connected to a controller associated with only one of the gaming devices;

transmitting data indicative of gaming device activity from the gaming device to the controller;

transmitting a pay command from the controller to the gaming device upon the occurrence of the [predetermined] predefined event; and

paying money from the bonus pool via the gaming device responsive to receipt of the pay command.

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2 ~~63~~. (once amended) The method of claim ~~62~~ wherein the [predetermined] predefined event comprises a [predetermined] predefined transaction at the gaming device.

3 ~~64~~. (once amended) The method of claim ~~63~~ wherein said [predetermined] predefined transaction comprises making a wager at the gaming device.

4 ~~65~~. (once amended) The method of claim ~~63~~ wherein said [predetermined] predefined transaction comprises a handle pull at the gaming device.

5 ~~66~~. (twice amended) The method of claim ~~62~~ wherein providing data establishing [criteria] at least one criterion to cause a bonus to be paid from the pool via at least one of said selected gaming devices upon the occurrence of a [predetermined] predefined event comprises providing data causing money to be paid from the pool via at least one of said selected gaming devices only if [predetermined] predefined minimum gaming device play is achieved.

6 ~~67~~. (once amended) The method of claim ~~62~~ wherein said [predetermined] predefined event comprises transmission of a pay command from the host computer to the controller.

8 ~~68~~. (once amended) A method of operating gaming devices interconnected by a computer network to a host computer comprising:

using the network to detect wagers made at the gaming devices;

allocating a predetermined percentage of the wagers to a bonus pool;

determining the level of the pool;

establishing a predetermined pool level;

establishing a predetermined minimum level of gaming device play;

[detecting wagers made at each of the gaming devices;] and

initiating a bonus period when the pool exceeds the predetermined level during

which gaming devices [which] that exceed the minimum level of gaming device play at the start of the bonus period are eligible to be paid a bonus responsive to the occurrence of a predetermined event and gaming devices [which] that do not exceed the minimum level of gaming device play at the start of the bonus period are not eligible for such a bonus.

<sup>9</sup>~~69~~. (once amended) The method of claim <sup>8</sup>~~68~~ wherein [initiating a bonus period] said method further comprises transmitting a command over the network to the gaming devices when the bonus period is initiated.

<sup>25</sup>~~71~~. (twice amended) A method of operating gaming devices configured to play a preselected game interconnected by a computer network to a host computer comprising:

permitting players to play the preselected game at the gaming devices;

paying [to] via each device in accordance with a payout table stored in the device after each game;

monitoring the activity of the gaming devices;

detecting the amount of money played on the gaming devices;

allocating a [predetermined] predefined percentage of the money played to a bonus pool;

determining the level of the bonus pool;

initiating a bonus period after the bonus pool exceeds a [predetermined] predefined level;

permitting continued play of the preselected game at the gaming devices;

continuing to pay [to] via each device in accordance with the payout table after initiating the bonus period; and

paying a bonus [to] via at least one of the gaming devices responsive to the occurrence of a [predetermined] predefined event after initiating the bonus period.

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28. (once amended) The method of claim <sup>25</sup>77 wherein said method further comprises:  
detecting the amount of money paid as bonuses [on the gaming devices];  
modifying the bonus pool by the amount of money paid as bonuses;  
determining the level of the bonus pool; and  
[deactivating the bonus payout table in the gaming device] ending the bonus  
period after the bonus pool level falls below a turn-off level.

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81. (once amended) The method of claim <sup>25</sup>77 wherein the [predetermined] predefined  
event comprises a jackpot paid [at] via at least one of the gaming devices.

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82. (once amended) The method of claim <sup>25</sup>77 wherein the [predetermined] predefined  
event comprises random selection of one of the gaming devices.

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83. (once amended) The method of claim <sup>25</sup>77 wherein paying a bonus [to] via at least  
one of the gaming devices comprises paying a bonus [to] via at least one [a] gaming device  
responsive to a pay command transmitted from the host computer over the network.

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84. (once amended) The method of claim <sup>25</sup>77 wherein said method further includes:  
defining at least one bonus eligibility [criteria] criterion; and  
paying a bonus only [to] via gaming devices which meet the [criteria] definition.

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85. (twice amended) The method of claim <sup>33</sup>84 wherein the [criteria] criterion comprises  
a minimum level of gaming device play.

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87. (once amended) The method of claim <sup>25</sup>77 wherein said method further comprises:  
determining the level of play for a gaming device;  
preventing a bonus from being paid [to the gaming device] when the level of  
play falls below a [predetermined] predefined level.

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88. (twice amended) A method of operating gaming devices interconnected by a  
computer network to a host computer having a user-operated input device comprising:  
associating each gaming device with a unique address code;  
selecting less than all of the gaming devices interconnected by the computer network

responsive to a user-effected action at the input device which identifies the selected gaming devices with the respective associated address codes;

using the network to track activity of the selected gaming devices;

allocating a [predetermined] predefined percentage of the money wagered to a bonus pool;

determining a bonus award to be paid from the bonus pool [at] via at least one of said selected gaming devices;

generating data indicating the amount of the bonus award;

transmitting the data over the network to said one [of said preselected] gaming device[s]; and

paying the bonus award [at] via at least said one gaming device.

<sup>36</sup>  
<sup>37</sup> ~~88~~ (once amended) The method of claim ~~88~~ wherein selecting less than all of the gaming devices interconnected by the computer network responsive to a user-effected action at the input device which identifies the [pre]selected gaming devices with the respective associated address codes comprises creating a table having a list of the unique address codes for each gaming device.

<sup>36</sup>  
<sup>39</sup> ~~88~~ (once amended) The method of claim ~~88~~ wherein using the network to track activity of the [pre]selected gaming devices comprises detecting the amount wagered at each of the [pre]selected gaming devices.

<sup>36</sup>  
<sup>40</sup> ~~92~~ (once amended) The method of claim ~~88~~ wherein selecting less than all of the gaming devices responsive to a user-effected action at the input device comprises selecting a first group of gaming devices and wherein said method further comprises:  
selecting a second group of the gaming devices responsive to a user-effected action at the input device which identifies the [pre]selected gaming devices with the respective associated address codes;  
generating data indicating that amount of a second bonus award;  
transmitting the data over the network to one of said gaming devices in the second group; and  
paying the second bonus award [at] via at least said one gaming device in the second group.

<sup>36</sup>  
43 ~~95~~. (once amended) The method of claim ~~88~~ wherein paying [at] via at least said one gaming device comprises paying coins from a hopper at said one gaming device.

<sup>36</sup>  
44 ~~96~~. (once amended) The method of claim ~~88~~ wherein paying [at] via at least said one gaming device comprises applying credits to a credit meter at said one gaming device.

<sup>36</sup>  
45 ~~97~~. (once amended) The method of claim ~~88~~ wherein said method further comprises paying the entire bonus pool [at] via said one gaming device.

E<sup>9</sup>  
7 ~~98~~. (once amended) The method of claim ~~62~~ wherein said method further includes:  
initiating a bonus period after the bonus pool exceeds a [predetermined] predefined  
level; and

transmitting the pay command only during a bonus period.

46 ~~99~~. (once amended) The method of claim ~~88~~ wherein said method further includes:  
initiating a bonus period after the bonus pool exceeds a [predetermined] predefined  
level; and

paying the bonus award only during a bonus period.

<sup>36</sup>  
47 ~~100~~. (once amended) A method of operating gaming devices interconnected by a computer network to a host computer comprising:

<sup>10</sup>  
providing data establishing [criteria] at least one criterion to cause a bonus to be paid  
via at least one of the gaming devices upon the occurrence of a [predetermined] predefined  
event;

storing the data in a memory connected to a controller associated with only one of the gaming devices;

using the network to track the amount of money played on the gaming devices;

allocating a [predetermined] predefined percentage of the money played to a bonus pool;

transmitting data indicative of gaming device activity from the gaming device to the controller;

initiating a bonus period after the bonus pool exceeds a [predetermined] predefined level;

transmitting a pay command from the controller to the gaming device upon the occurrence of the [predetermined] predefined event; and

paying a bonus via the gaming device responsive to receipt of the pay command.

48 <sup>47</sup> 101. (once amended) The method of claim 100 wherein the [predetermined] predefined event comprises a [predetermined] predefined transaction at the gaming device.

49 <sup>48</sup> 102. (once amended) The method of claim 101 wherein said [predetermined] predefined transaction comprises making a wager at the gaming device.

50 <sup>49</sup> 103. (once amended) The method of claim 101 wherein said [predetermined] predefined transaction comprises a jackpot at the gaming device.

52 <sup>47</sup> 104. (once amended) The method of claim 100 wherein providing data establishing [criteria] at least one criterion to cause a bonus to be paid via one of the gaming devices upon the occurrence of a [predetermined] predefined event comprises providing data causing the bonus to be paid only if [predetermined] predefined minimum gaming device activity is achieved.

53 <sup>47</sup> 105. (once amended) The method of claim 100 wherein said [predetermined] predefined event comprises transmission of a pay command from the host computer to the controller.

51 <sup>48</sup> 106. (once amended) The method of claim 101 wherein said [predetermined] predefined transaction comprises playing a game at the gaming device.

Please add the following new claims:

11 <sup>13</sup> 14--107. (new) The method of claim 107 wherein paying a bonus to a gaming device responsive to a pay command transmitted from the host computer over the network further comprises advancing a credit meter on the gaming device.--

<sup>16</sup>  
--~~108~~. (new) The method of claim ~~68~~<sup>8</sup> wherein using the network to detect wagers made at the gaming devices comprises transmitting coin-in information from the gaming devices to the host computer.--

<sup>17</sup>  
--~~109~~. (new) The method of claim ~~68~~<sup>8</sup> wherein establishing a predetermined minimum level of gaming device play comprises establishing a predetermined minimum rate of gaming device play.--

<sup>18</sup>  
--~~110~~. (new) The method of claim ~~68~~<sup>8</sup> wherein said method further includes a network transmission to the electronic gaming devices when the bonus period is initiated.--

<sup>19</sup>  
--~~111~~. (new) The method of claim ~~68~~<sup>8</sup> wherein said predetermined event comprises a predetermined number of wagers placed at the gaming devices.--

<sup>20</sup>  
--~~112~~. (new) The method of claim ~~111~~<sup>19</sup> wherein said predetermined number of wagers is randomly selected.—

<sup>21</sup>  
--~~113~~. (new) The method of claim ~~68~~<sup>8</sup> wherein said method further comprises paying bonuses to the eligible gaming devices after initiating the bonus period.

<sup>22</sup>  
--~~114~~. (new) The method of claim ~~113~~<sup>21</sup> wherein said method further includes: deducting bonuses paid from the bonus pool; and ending the bonus period when the pool drops below a second predetermined level.

<sup>23</sup>  
--~~115~~. (new) The method of claim ~~114~~<sup>22</sup> wherein said second predetermined level is substantially the same as the first-mentioned predetermined level.

<sup>24</sup>  
--~~116~~. (new) The method of claim ~~115~~<sup>21</sup> wherein paying bonuses to the eligible gaming devices after initiating the bonus period comprises paying bonuses to randomly selected gaming devices.

<sup>11</sup>  
--~~117~~. (new) The method of claim ~~75~~<sup>10</sup> wherein said method further comprises paying a bonus to the selected gaming device.